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M. F.

17 August 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Intelligence, ID,GSUSA

SUBJECT: Storage of Vital Documents

1. The Director of Central Intelligence has initiated a study to consider what safeguards should be effected for the storage of documents vital to the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in the event of a national disaster which might render the files of the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington unavailable to the agency.

2. In exploring the problem, the Director of Central Intelligence, is considering the implications of the Central Intelligence Agency acting centrally for the IAC agencies in such storage. The present concept being explored would leave the screening of the documents, any necessary reproduction, and instructions concerning future destruction to the agency concerned with the production of the material stored; CIA furnishing the storage space and a minimum of personnel to effect directed destruction and replacement.

3. It is my understanding that the Intelligence Division, Department of the Army has done nothing, other than to explore initially, the problem so far as it is concerned. Is this understanding correct?

4. I have been directed to ascertain the views of the IAC agencies on two questions:

a. Do the IAC agencies desire the Central Intelligence Agency to perform this service for them, and;

b. What steps, if any, have been taken by the IAC agencies, of their own volition, to solve this problem in so far as each is concerned?

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5. The next meeting of the CIA committee on this subject is Monday, 23 August 1948, at which time, I would like to present tentative answers to the two questions propounded in paragraph 4 above.

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Colonel, GSC

CCB/bh


cc: 2 Army

Navy

State

Air Force

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